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IN THE CLAIMS:

Cancel Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 12, 16 and 18 without prejudice and amend Claims 3, 4, 17 and 19 as follows:

1. Canceled

2. Canceled

3. (Currently Amended) A device for damping the movement of movable furniture parts in their closing region, preferably for damping the closing movement of doors, flaps or drawers, comprising:

a housing (7, 8) which can be fastened to a fixed wall part or carcass part (3), in which housing (7, 8) a lever (6) is pivotably held or a plunger is slidably guided, with said lever or plunger being pivoted or slid to its closing region by the movable furniture part (1), thus by way of at least two stage gear means with a speed increasing ratio impinging on a rotation damper (14, 15) or on a piston of a damping cylinder;

wherein the lever (5 6), which is held in the housing (7, 8), carries a toothed segment (23) concentrically to its bearing axis (17), with said toothed segment intermeshing with a pinion (20) which is held in the housing, which pinion interacts with a toothed wheel (18) which is attached to a front-end journal (16) of the rotation damper (14), and

wherein the pinion (20) comprises two toothed segments (21, 22), of which one segment (21) of smaller radius intermeshes with the toothed segment (23) of the lever (6), while the toothed segment (22) of the pinion (20) of larger radius intermeshes with the

toothed wheel (18) of the rotation damper (14).

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The A device according to claim 2 for damping the movement of movable furniture parts in their closing region, preferably for damping closing movement of doors, flaps or drawers, comprising~~

~~a housing (7, 8) structured and arranged to be fastened to a fixed wall part or carcass part (3),~~

~~a lever (6) pivotably held or plunger slidably guided in said housing (7, 8), said lever or plunger arranged to be pivoted or slid to its closing region by the movable furniture part (1) and means for damping the closing movement comprising an at least two stage gear means having a speed increasing ratio and impinging on a rotation damper (14, 15) or piston of a damping cylinder, wherein~~

~~the lever (6), which is held in the housing (7, 8), carries a toothed segment (23) concentrically to its bearing axis (17), with said toothed segment intermeshing with a pinion (20) which is held in the housing, which pinion interacts with a toothed wheel (18) which is attached to a front-end journal (16) of the rotation damper (14), and~~

~~the lever (6) which is used for damping is attached to a journal (17) which is a front-end journal of a second rotation damper (15) which is held in the housing.~~

5. Canceled

6. Canceled.

7. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the lever (6) which is used for damping is attached to a journal (17) which is the front-end journal

of a second rotation damper (15) which is held in the housing.

8. Canceled

9. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 3, wherein the lever (6) is impinged upon in the opening direction by a spring (26).

10. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 4, wherein the lever (6) is impinged upon in the opening direction by a spring (26).

11. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 7, wherein the lever (6) is impinged upon in the opening direction by a spring (26).

12. Canceled

13. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 9, wherein the rotation damper or dampers (14, 15) offers/offer less resistance in the opening direction than in the closing direction.

14. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 10, wherein the rotation damper or dampers (14, 15) offers/offer less resistance in the opening direction than in the closing direction.

15. (Previously presented) The device according to claim 11, wherein the rotation damper or dampers (14, 15) offers/offer less resistance in the opening direction than in the closing direction.

16. Canceled

17.(Currently Amended) ~~The A device of claim 16 further including for damping the closing movement of movable furniture parts in their closing region comprising:~~

a housing (7, 8) which can be fastened to a fixed wall part or body part (3), in which housing (7, 8) a lever (6) is pivotably held, with said lever being pivoted to its closing region in response to closing movement of a movable furniture part (1) by way of at least two stage gear means with a speed increasing ratio impinging on a rotation damper (14, 15), and

a notatably mounted pinion having a large radius toothed segment (22) and a small radius toothed segment (21), wherein the large radius toothed segment (22) intermeshes with a toothed wheel (18) cooperatively associated with the rotation damper (14) of the rotation damper, and the small radius toothed segment (21) intermeshes with a toothed segment (23) of the lever (6).

18. Canceled

19. (Currently Amended) ~~The An article of claim 18 furniture comprising: a body.~~

a panel attached to the body which is movable between an open and closed position.

a damping device attached to a wall of the body for damping the closing movement of the panel, said damping device including a housing (7, 8) enclosing a pivotably mounted lever (6), said lever being pivoted to a closing region in response to closing movement of the panel by way of at least two stage gear means with a speed increasing ratio impinging on a rotation damper (14, 15), wherein

the damping device further includes a rotatably mounted pinion having a large radius toothed segment (22) and a small radius toothed segment (21), wherein the large radius toothed segment (22) intermeshes with a toothed wheel (18) cooperatively associated with the rotation damper (14), and the small radius toothed segment (21) intermeshes with a toothed segment (23) of the lever (6).